

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Albania

DATE DISTR. 13 SEP 50

SUBJECT Military Information on Albania

NO. OF PAGES 4

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NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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A. General Information on the Albanian Army

1. The Albanian Army is trained according to the Soviet system under the supervision of Soviet officers who often visit the regiments, watch the drills and inspect the units. In April 1950 a Soviet colonel visited informant's unit; he wore a uniform like that of the Albanian officers.
2. Regimental officers wear the same uniform as that of enlisted men, except for their insignia of rank. The uniform has no insignia to indicate the regiment.
3. The food given to the Army is inadequate and of inferior quality. Each soldier is given 700 grams of bread daily, which is made of a mixture of wheat, corn, rye, and other substances. Breakfast, which is served at 6:00 a.m., includes 15 to 20 grams of meat and a little macaroni. At 1:00 p.m. the troops receive beans or macaroni in inadequate portions and 20 to 25 grams of meat. In the evening they receive "mountain tea" or three or four cups of coffee. Officers receive the standard food ration, but they are allowed to eat in the cooperatives where they can get food much better than that rationed the enlisted men.
4. Each soldier is issued one pair of trousers, a shirt, blouse, undershirt, a pair of drawers and a pair of socks. These articles are replaced only when completely worn out.
5. Soldiers receive 100 lek per month.

B. 14 Infantry Regiment: formerly located at Korco, 14 Infantry Regiment moved into the village of Drenove during the first ten days of May 1950. Informant does not know if all the battalions of 14 Regiment moved to Drenove, and if 14 Regiment is located in the village proper or in its environs.

C. 25 Infantry Regiment: located at Voskopoje since the first week in May 1950.

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D. 9 Infantry Regiment

1. Korce is the base of the infantry division which includes 9 Regiment, in which informant was serving. In Korce informant saw two anti-aircraft cannon.
2. 9 Infantry Regiment, which is known as Unit Number 1177 (post office ?), is composed of 25, 38 and 75 Infantry Battalions.
3. Informant reported that 9 Infantry Regiment is not up to full strength. Consequently, positions are not always filled by personnel with ranks called for by the table of organizations.
4. 9 Infantry Regiment and its three battalions are located in the wooded region of Shtyllë, northeast of Vithkuq. The billets for the regiment and all its units consist of fifty or sixty wooden huts with thatched roofs. The huts are surrounded by a palisade with two entrances guarded by armed sentries.
5. The commanding officer is Captain Mida Kondi from Northern Albania. He is approximately 36 years of age. 9 Regiment also has a captain as chief of staff, a captain or first lieutenant as political commissar and four or five warrant officers, one of whom is in charge of intelligence.
6. 9 Regiment includes men whose dates of birth range from 1916 to 1929. It is supposed to include all those who have not completed their military service previously. In actuality, men from the ages of 18 to 45 are serving, because the records of the recruiting offices were destroyed; in reconstituting the records, an age was arbitrarily given to each male as it pleased the committee.
7. The officers frequently carry pistols, but more often carry no weapons at all. Most of the armament of the regiment is of Soviet origin.
8. There are trucks at the disposal of the regiment, but informant does not know how many; the officers use sedans.
9. The regiment has no wireless set. There is telephone connection only between the regiment and the battalions.
10. Each infantry battalion of 9 Regiment has three companies: a rifle company (pushko), a mortar company (murtoja), and an anti-tank company (atanotja), each of which is designated alphabetically: the rifle company as E, the mortar company as H, and the anti-tank company as Th. According to the table of organization, each company is supposed to be commanded by a captain, with a first lieutenant as political commissar, a staff officer (sic) and two or three warrant officers.

11. The Rifle Companies of 9 Regiment

- a. Each company is commanded by a first lieutenant, assisted by a second lieutenant, with two warrant officers for intelligence, three warrant officers to lead troops in the field, seven or eight non-commissioned officers or corporals, and 70 privates.

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- b. The rifle companies have three platoons of 25 to 30 men, each with the same cadre as the mortar companies.
- c. Each rifle company has 15 or 20 light machine guns, each manned by one soldier; the other soldiers carry short-barrelled rifles.

12. The Mortar Companies of 9 Regiment

- a. Each company is commanded by a first lieutenant, assisted by a second lieutenant and a warrant officer in charge of intelligence. Two warrant officers lead troops in the field. In addition there are 4 non-commissioned officers and 46 men.
- b. The mortar companies have three platoons of approximately 25 men, each under the command of a warrant officer, assisted by three non-commissioned officers or corporals.
- c. The mortar companies have light mortars with a range of 900 meters and short-barrelled repeating rifles. Each mortar is manned by two men, one of whom carries no other weapon; the second man and the rest of the privates carry short-barrelled repeating rifles. The mortar company of 38 Battalion of 9 Regiment has nine such light mortars.

13. The Anti-Tank Companies of 9 Regiment

- a. Each company is commanded by a warrant officer(sic), assisted by three warrant officers commanding platoons, and two corporals.
- b. The anti-tank companies have one platoon of anti-tank guns (of Simonov type) with 15 men under the command of a warrant officer, assisted by two non-commissioned officers. In addition the companies have one communications platoon (telephones and mail) of 15 men under the command of a warrant officer and two corporals, and one supply platoon of 12 men under the command of a warrant officer.
- c. The anti-tank company of each battalion has anti-tank guns (kondia terkevet), each manned by 2-man gun crews. These anti-tank guns are transported by the first platoon. The other two platoons, communications and supply, have repeating, short-barrelled rifles. Each anti-tank platoon usually has 6 light anti-tank guns.

14. The 9 Regiment has in addition two companies of heavy mortars (murtojer rende). Each mortar company has seven heavy mortars with a range of 3,000 meters, each manned by a 3-man gun crew. The barrel of these mortars is approximately 1.5 meters long.

15. One of these heavy mortar companies, with the designation 75 H 13 y, is now in Shtylle attached to 38 Battalion. It is commanded by a captain, a second lieutenant is political commissar, a warrant officer is in charge of intelligence, and two warrant officers lead troops in the field. The other company, which is attached to 25 Battalion, is located in Korco, but is soon supposed to move to Shtylle.

16. The 38 Battalion of 9 Regiment

- a. The battalion is commanded by 1st Lt. Nembi Karafili from Pegin. Karafili was trained in the Soviet Union. He is approximately 35 years of age. Deputy commander is 2nd Lt. Hadji, a Moslem. Chief of staff is 1st Lt. Trebigica, a Christian. Political commissar is 2nd Lt. Dori Gjortzi, a Christian from the area of Korco. The staff also includes 2 or 3 warrant officers.

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- b. In the rifle company of 38 Battalion informant knew warrant officers Yusuf Terchizi, Liancho, and Ekuran Guri, all of whom are Moslems.
- c. In the anti-tank company of 38 Battalion informant knew warrant officers Liko Hamit from Mallakastra near Berat, Lersin Chena from Losne (Lushnje-?) near Berat, and Ila, a Moslem from Korce.

E. General Military Information

- a. Informant heard that Caf' e Kazanit and the ridge in the vicinity of the village of Kamenice near Arseke were fortified. The fortification (sic) was constructed last year.
- b. There is an airdrome at Tirana and one at Kukes. Informant states, however, that he has never seen an airplane at the Kukes Airfield; he heard that there are four-engine planes at Tirana.

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